

## **N310. TELEMAN, Europe's Tele-Robotic Program to End**

TELEMAN, the European Community's program on tele-operated robotic systems for the nuclear industry, will end after completion of phase 2. Unless the Commission can drum up support for an industry users group - EUTRUG (European Telerobotic Users Group), much of the potential of the program may not be fully released.

TELEMAN is the European Community's research and training program concerning remote handling in "hazardous or disordered nuclear environments". It has been particularly successful at bringing together and combining the skills of manufacturers, specialist organizations, universities and research centers. In TELEMAN's first round, the project concentrated on developing generic components and subsystems needed for industrial machines. In 1992, five phase-two contracts were awarded and it covered the following five machines:

- ROBUG III is a low-cost light mobile machine capable of walking and also of climbing on concrete and metallic surfaces
- IMPACT is a light mobile tracked machine with advanced sensing/CAD modeling and communication features
- LACWAP provides an innovative approach to the problem of accessing restricted spaces through a limited size penetration. It aims to develop and test a long reach manipulator system which is based on a combination of a long reach modular carrier constructed in sections and a light-weight dexterous manipulator
- INGRID is an integrated gantry/robot system, which will include a variety of generic devices and control systems
- MESSINA is a robust vehicle research machine with a modular layout. The system is ultimately intended to be able to climb up and down staircases, to turn on stair landings, to locate and cross obstacles, to avoid collisions, and to carry an increased payload volume compared to mono-bodied machines

Although the TELEMAN program will not continue, an informal discussion between the commission and various users indicated the strong possibility that a user group should be set up to cover all nuclear users of telerobotic systems in Europe.

*For more, "TELEMAN Only Rang Twice, Europe's Tele-Robotic Programme to End," Nuclear Engineering International, pp. 15-17, March 1994.*